



SAFEnet

March 2010

STUDENT'S KEEPING IT SAFE

Montgomery County's Department of Liquor Control (DLC), *Student's Keeping it Safe*, highlights a student or group who is making a positive impact on the community. The Keeping it Safe team will recognize each month an individual or group, between the grade levels of 6th and 12th.

March's *Student's Keeping it Safe* are the **under-21 volunteers (UV's)** that work for the DLC. The DLC teamed up with county police to run the Alcohol Compliance Check Program, which includes testing local establishments on service/sales of alcohol to youth under the age of 21. UV's act as an undercover buyer, a job that requires courage, poise and even a small amount of acting skills to play the role, in an attempt to make the county a safer place. The UV's, several times a month, attempt to purchase alcohol at bars, restaurants, hotels, beer & wine stores, and liquor stores. If an employee sells them alcohol, a police officer and alcohol specialist are there to issue the employee and the business criminal and civil citations, each of which can carry fines of up to \$1,000, potential jail time and, for repeat offenders, removal of the establishment's alcohol license.

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Photo Credit: Amber Parcher/The Gazette

Newsletter Highlights



Get Local!
What's Happening in
Montgomery County and
Maryland



Tips, Stats, and Signs of
Under-21 Alcohol Use



In the News

Questions?

Montgomery County community members can email related questions and receive updated prevention information. Please email: safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov

Tell a friend about SAFEnet and have them send an email to safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov with the subject line "SIGN ME UP"

To unsubscribe, please send email to SAFEnet@montgomerycountymd.gov with the subject line "UNSUBSCRIBE ME"

Keeping it Safe "team" members: Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, Montgomery County Police, Keeping it Safe Coalition, Drawing the Line on Substance Abuse Coalition, Montgomery County Safe and Drug Free Schools, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Recreation Department, and the Montgomery County Highway Safety Office
To become a team member, email or call Meg Baker. 240-777-6652, meg.baker@montgomerycountymd.gov

KEEPING IT SAFE

SAFEline- Call 301-670-SAFE to request information on hosting under 21 alcohol free events or to report an upcoming under 21 alcohol party, event, or provider.

To report a party in progress, call the non-emergency police line at 301-289-8000.

For more information on state laws, consequences, or to order materials on Keeping it Safe, please contact the Department of Liquor Control Outreach Office, 240-777-1989, or e-mail dlc@montgomerycountymd.

Students Can Enter to Win WRAP's 2010 Geico Student Awards

This contest is an opportunity for Greater Washington high school student groups to demonstrate their group's student leadership in both developing and executing activities that promote alcohol and drug-free lifestyles.

All high school student groups in the Washington-metropolitan area are encouraged to apply. All activities submitted will be judged upon the following criteria: creativity, school and/or community involvement, leadership, activity must promote alcohol and drug-free lifestyles, all activities submitted must or will occur during the 2009-2010 school year.

Student groups complete regionally for the following prizes:

1st Place:	\$1,000
2nd Place:	\$600
3rd Place:	\$400

DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2010

For more information and to download an application visit www.wrap.org/files/youthOutreach.htm or call Marcela Martinez at 703-893-0461.

Drawing the Line on Underage Substance Abuse Presents the 2010 Poster Contest

The Student Poster Contest, open to all students grade 4 - 8 who live in Montgomery County, addresses the risks of using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

First, second, third, and honorable mention ribbons will be awarded as well as fun prizes including Wii Fit and Wii active games.

Posters will be displayed in local malls and community centers across Montgomery County during the month of April. The top 13 posters will be published in the annual DTL calendar.

For more information contact Eydie Balsam, 301-718-2467 or ebalsam@fscone.org.

Problems and Costs Associated with Underage Drinking in Maryland

Underage drinking cost the citizens of Maryland \$1.5 billion in 2007. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth. This translates to a cost of \$2,605 per year for each youth in the State. Maryland ranks 16th highest among the 50 states for the cost per youth of underage drinking.

(Source: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation)

Alcohol Consumption by Youth in Maryland

Underage drinking is widespread in Maryland. Approximately 259,000 underage youth in Maryland drink each year. In 2007, according to self-reports by Maryland students: **73%** had at least one drink on one or more days during their life, **24%** had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13, **43%** had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasion in the past 30 days, **24%** had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, and **6%** had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.

(Source: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation)

Spring Break is Right Around the Corner!



Spring break is no longer just for college students. This annual ritual has trickled down to high-schoolers, many of whom are now attending parties and vacations without adult supervision. Before your teen heads off for fun in the sun, make sure you have an in-depth discussion involving safety and rules.

10 "Must Discuss" Items Before Your Teen Heads Off on Spring Break

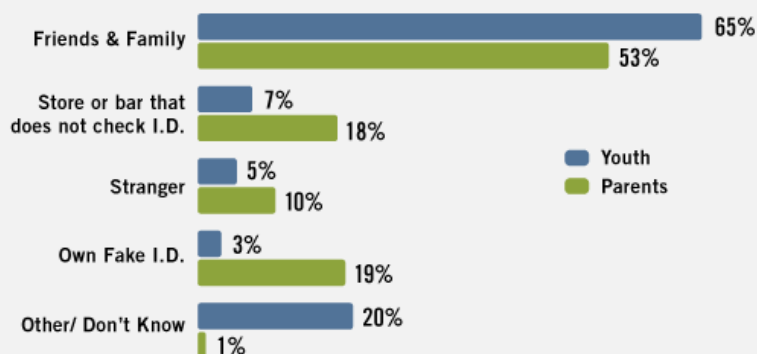
1. Help your child research and plan his trip.
2. Ensure that your teen will be accessible by telephone or email.
3. Talk to your child about drinking.
4. Talk to your child about "roofies" (illicit use of Rohypnol reported at popular spring-break locations).
5. Encourage your child to always travel with a buddy.
6. Register foreign travel if your teen is traveling outside the US, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.
7. Make sure your child knows the law for whichever state or country they are traveling too.
8. Provide your child with important contact phone numbers. You can find a list of emergency contact phone numbers from all over the world at: www.911dispatch.com/911/911_world.htm
9. Equip your child with adequate medical documentation.
10. You can say, "NO!"

(source familyeducation.com)

Did you know?

Since laws established 21 as the minimum drinking age, the likelihood that a 15 to 20 year old driver will be involved in a fatal crash has dropped by more than half.

Parents and Kids Agree, Today's Youth Get Alcohol from Friends and Family



Source: TRU Omnibuzz, 2003 Wirthlin Worldwide May Quorum, 2003

Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities
account for

32 %

of all traffic fatalities

90%

of teens don't think drinking is worth
the consequences it can cause.

Source: Century Council

Q&A

Q. Aren't beer and wine "safer" than liquor?

A. No. One 12-ounce bottle of beer or a 5-ounce glass of wine (about a half-cup) has as much alcohol as a 1.5-ounce shot of liquor. Alcohol can make you drunk and cause problems no matter how you consume it.

Q. Why can't teens drink if their parents can?

A. Teens brains and bodies are still developing; alcohol use can cause learning problems and lead to adult alcoholism. People who begin drinking by age 15 are five times more likely to abuse or become dependent on alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21.

Q. How can I say no to alcohol? I'm afraid I won't fit in.

A. It's easier to refuse than you think. Try: "No thanks," "I don't drink," or "I'm not interested." Remember that the majority of teens don't drink alcohol. You're in good company when you're one of them.

Source: SAMHSA

Student's Keeping It Safe Under-21 Volunteers of the Department of Liquor Control

*Ron Price, Compliance Manager,
gives more insight on the program*

1. How do the UV's try and purchase alcohol?

UV's are checked before entering an establishment, to ensure the only belongings on their person at the time of an attempted purchase is their own valid, underage ID, a cell phone for safety purposes and buy money provided by the Liquor Inspector. No age enhancements such as facial hair, provocative clothing, make-up or sun glasses are allowed at any time. UV's must interact directly with the seller/server and are not permitted engage in distracting behaviors such as talking on the phone. UV's take possession of the alcohol sold to them before an establishment is charged. UV's attend an extensive training that includes detailed protocol as well as role playing. All compliance checks follow this consistent procedure to ensure fairness and safety.

2. How many compliance checks are done per year?

Joint efforts with the Department of Liquor Control and County Police, have allowed 600 compliance checks to be accomplished annually.

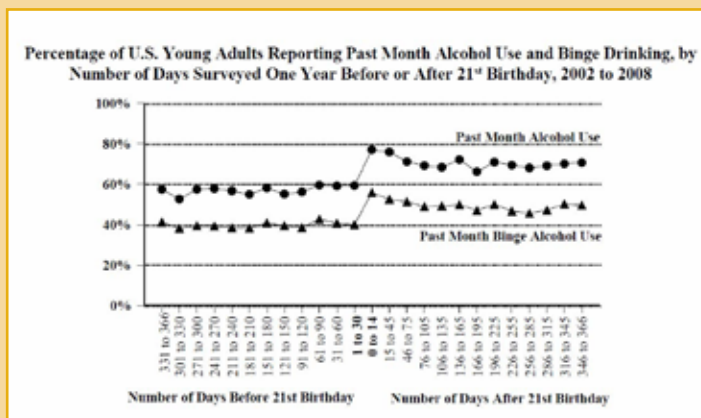
3. What is the compliance rate with establishments on under-21 alcohol sales?

The compliance rate for under-21 alcohol sales in 2008-2009 was 76%.

Alcohol Use and Binge Drinking Increases in Two Weeks After 21st Birthday; Remain at Higher Rates After Turning 21

Rates of past month alcohol use and binge drinking are higher among young adults who have recently turned 21 than among those who are still 20 years old, according to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NS-DUH). Nearly 60% of young adults reported past alcohol use and approximately 40% reported binge drinking in the year before their 21st birthday. These already high rates of alcohol use and binge drinking among minors increase sharply in the 14 days after their 21st birthday, to 77% and 56%, respectively. Furthermore, both past month alcohol use and binge drinking rates remained higher among young adults after their 21st birthday. Access to alcohol may be a determining factor in excessive alcohol use among youth.

Source: Cesar Fax



The Alcohol Industry Uses Marketing Ploys to Make Products Attractive to Kids Via Sweet Taste, Designer Alcopops Only Look Innocent, Hook Kids

The alcohol industry has found ways to make its products attractive to kids, and parents may not realize what it is their children are drinking. So-called "alcopops" taste like fruit juice but can contain as much booze, or more, than some beers. Girls, in particular, are more likely to like the sweet malt punch. According to the Department of Youth and Human Services, one-third of teenage girls have tried alcopops.



Source: National Alcohol Beverage Control Association

We Don't Serve Teens

To determine parents' perspective on the legal consequences of underage drinking, We Don't Serve Teens commissioned a survey of over 1,000 adults. The results show that overwhelmingly, 96% of adults and parents alike do not believe it is acceptable for parents or other adults to provide beverage alcohol to underage youth. Further, all survey respondents said if they learned another parent or adult provided alcohol to their teenager without their permission, they would consider taking recourse against the other parent, or their child. The top actions adults would take include: speaking with my child about the dangers and consequences of underage drinking (93%), call that adult and express my objections/feelings/opinions (86%), restrict my child's time at that family's house (80%), limit my child's relationship with that family (76%), notify other parents (74%), punish my own child (69%).

Other actions adults report they would take if such an incident occurred include calling the police (44%), reporting the incident to the school (40%), and taking legal action, such as file charges, sue them, etc. (34%).

Source: TCC, Harris Interactive, Quorum, January 2006 & We Don't Serve Teens

